

WRESTLING FORUM

FEBRUARY 15, 1990

VOLUME 5

ISSUE 3

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!!!

ON FEBRUARY 15, 1986, THE FIRST ISSUE of Wrestling Forum hit the mail on its way to about a hundred wrestling fans across the country. The names on the list had been compiled by a firm in Peoria who claimed they could generate a list for any group of specific readers. After sampling the first issue, a few people responded (surprisingly, considering the quality of writing, printing, etc.) and we were off and running.

BEFORE WE PRODUCED THE FIRST ISSUE, we had never heard of the wrestling underground. We assumed that we had a novel idea in producing a bulletin about wrestling. We wanted to fill the six week gap that existed between the Apter magazines and the time stuff took place. None of us who began Wrestling Forum knew that there were other newsletters in existence. At that time, Dave Meltzer and Bob Closson were nothing more than names on the list.

WHEN DAVE AND BOB RECEIVED THEIR FIRST issue of Forum, they promptly sent back copies of their own publications. I sat and stared, wide eyed at the things they printed. Real names of wrestlers. Criticism on poor work rates. Title changes that took place in one city but not another. We knew this was happening; we knew that wrestling was a work. What we didn't know was that you could print such information for the masses!

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WERE FIVE OF US who put out Wrestling Forum. I did the compiling as the others lived in other areas. John Hunter was a college roommate who was an attorney. Bob Pentescost was John's uncle who worked at a TV station in New York. Frances Watkins was employed by the same company I was, only in Atlanta. Paul Dooley was some relation of Frances' in Texas. All of those people are now gone for various reasons.

OUR CURRENT STAFF HAS BEEN WITH US quite a while. Sean Grande was the first to come aboard in the 5/30/86 issue. He was just a high school senior, a whole seventeen years old. Now he's a junior in college. Ed Gareia joined us next. He came from Wrestling Eye magazine where he did the Phantom of the Ring column. He wrote his first Phantom for us in the 5/30/86 edition and officially joined the staff in the 6/30/86 issue. Jeff Siegel began writing the World Class report for us in the 11/30/86 Forum and became a staff member immediately. Mike Viola is our newest staffer and he was made a member just two issues ago (though he had written the World Class report for a few months). As for myself, I was the 29 year old father of a 2 year old, working for an exterminator as a sales rep when we got going. Amazingly, I'm STILL 29, am the father of a 5½ year old and a one year old, and work in a factory when my arm feels like it. In the past four years we've gone from a subscriber base of 18 to more than 250.

IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS WE MADE PEOPLE smile. We've made people mad. We've made them cry. We've made a few enemies, but we've made a whole bunch of friends. YOU are the reason for the success we have enjoyed. Thanks for keeping us in business for four years. Hopefully we'll be able to do a tribute to our readers every year at this time for several years to come.

GOTTA DO THIS: WELCOME TO NEW READERS and old reader alike. We are Wrestling Forum and we publish on the 15th and 30th of each month. Price is \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe in any amount upto six months worth at any one time. Send all renewals, letters, results, etc. to WRESTLING FORUM, BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL 61448 UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY NOTED.

FOR THOSE OF YOU INTERESTED IN OUR 1989 YEARBOOK, it should be finished by the end of the month. I should have it ready to mail by March 7 by the very latest. I'm about half done and the only thing left is just retyping submissions. The yearbook contains the 1989 year end poll of 30 different categories as selected by our readers, the decade end awards as also done by our readers, title defenses by the WWF, NWA and AWA champions

for the year, a reprint of the most popular article ever written for us called "Week With the Fed", a look from a jobber's point of view of what it's like to work for the WWF for a week PLUS "Week With the Fed Part II", the follow up to the original article, top news stories by the month for 1989, a composite Barometer for the year, Unofficial awards from our readers, Things I'd Like to See & I'm Most sick of... (the survey question put to our readers, a profile of the "average" wrestling fan, plus "Relection of the 80's" - where each of our staff members gives their most memorable events from the past decade. You bet it's a lot. It still looks to be around 120 pages and will be spiral bound so it'll last. Price will be \$12.50 which includes first class postage. We are only going to print a limited number and after they're sold out, they won't be available again. If you are renewing at the same time as ordering a yearbook (**YEARBOOKS ARE NOT PART OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION**), please make out a separate check since I won't be cashing those checks until going to the printer.

>> ye olde TRADING POST <<

Last issue, we offered this space to anyone with anything to buy sell or trade and only one person sent in a request. Glad you're all happy.

ROYAL DUNCAN is looking to buy or trade wrestling autograph: You can contact him at (309) 691-2772.

In the meantime, I promised some thoughts on the bulletin wars. With the exception of Dave Meltzer, nop one who does a bulletin does it for a living. That makes it very hard to criticize their work. I do think that someone who sits around and does nothing but pick on another bulletin does so because they are insecure about the quality of their own. I myself have been guilty of that. When I do a plug, I'll let you know if I like it or not. That's not to say that you will like it or should subscribe to the plugged bulletin for a zillion issues just because I liked it. Usually what I'll do is give you a summary of what the bulletin is like plus the address. My suggestion is that you send for a sample issue or two, then judge for yourself. I think there are too many bulletins on the market and I think that some of those that seem to crop up out of nowhere should consider writin' for another bulletin before trying it on their own. Just because Forum has lasted four years is no sign that anyone else is crazy or stupid enough to keep at it that long.

So what about the bulletins I get? Dave Meltzer's weekly **OBSERVER** is the best source of information, especially when it comes to Japanese news. It can be sampled for \$5.00 which will get you four issues worth. The address is **WRESTLING OBSERVER, BOX 1228, CAMPBELL, CA 95009**.

If you're looking for the best of the bi-monthly bulletins, Wade Keller's **Torch** is my choice. You'll find humor, controversy, news and other interesting features. Wade's assembled quite a staff of writers over the past couple of years. Price is \$1.25 per issue and a color photo is sent with each issue. Address is **PRO WRESTLING TORCH, BOX 201844, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55420**.

The wackiest bulletin in existance is Ringworms, Rollerbabes, Wrestling Sushi and Multiple personalities. Who knows which Mullins really puts it out, but I'm sure he's realed to Sybil (or at least one of her personalities). Address is **RWBWS, BOX 36189, SAN JOSE, CA 95158**. 50¢ per issue.

And finally, my personal favorite is an irregular sheet (usually twice per month) that concentrates on results. Ron Lemieux puts out **Arena Report** and is well worth the price of 75¢ per issue. Address is **916 SLOWOOD CT, LAKE MARY, FL 32746**.

Those are personal recommendations and would be the ones I subscribed to if I didn't do a sheet myself and was a "normal" fan.

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

LARRY ZBYSZKO DROPPED THE AWA title to Masa Saito in Japan on Saturday the 10th of February before a record setting gate of more than \$3 million dollars. The AWA offices confirmed this Monday morning and said that no return date had been set. Zbyszko will wrestle on the upcoming 2/17 card in Rochester, going against Nikita Koloff in a 2 of 3 falls match. Saito will not be on the card.

I WAS ALSO TOLD THAT SAITO OWNS A HOUSE in Minnesota and will be willing to defend the title here in the States on a regular basis. The Japanese did not buy the belt as we had speculated in the last couple of issues. Tatsumi Fujinami was originally scheduled to win the belt, but the Japanese decided not to buy the belt after the two promotions there were able to work out some sort of agreement between themselves. Titan's belt will also be defended in Japan, making the AWA belt less of an attraction. The decision to change the belt had already been made and giving it to Saito is a gesture of gratitude on behalf of the AWA (gasp) for his loyalty to the promotion. Saito will defend the belt in Japan when possible as well as here. I do look for Zbyszko to regain the belt by the end of the year.

OTHER MATCHES ON THE 2/17 CARD will be another attempt at a cage match between Destruction Crew and Paul Diamond and the Trooper. This match was scheduled for the last card there, but someone forgot to load the cage on the truck and it never made it to Rochester. They have covered up locally by saying the Destruction Crew found a clause in the contract that says they don't have to defend their titles in a cage. Joe Blanchard then says that this will be a non title match.

IN ANOTHER GIMMICK MATCH, COLONEL DeBeers (of Sgt. Slaughter's team) will go against Yukon John Nord in a triathlon contest. The first minute will be an arm wrestling contest. The next two minutes will be an over the top rope match and ending with a two man tug of war.

INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

ADD CHICAGO CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING to the list of fatalities promotion wise this year. Channel 66 in Chicago has taken the show off the air and the wrestlers are looking for other work. Three of their boys found work with Ringside Wrestling Promotions out of Charlotte, Iowa this past Saturday evening.

IN THAT SHOW, BEFORE ANOTHER ROWDY full house of 200, this small promotion brought in the Chicago guys plus Ox Baker for six weeks worth of TV tapings. The show is broadcast on the public access channel for Cox Cable in the Quad Cities (Davenport, IA & Moline, East Moline, and Rock Island, IL) in half hour time slots. Ox Baker "juiced" at one point in the show, but used a BLOOD CAPSULE rather than the blade. He came out later with the dried blood on his head and it was still bright red even though it was flaking off. Rocky Brewer is the champion of the group as well as the owner/promoter and basically everyone is challenging him for the title. Terry Sholl, of the defunct Chicago group, wrestled Brewer and the match went 1:27. A brawl, they used those orange highway cones during the brawl and Sholl did a major league juice job.

ANOTHER WRESTLER, MASTER OF DISASTER (Kevin Allenger), had gone through Gagne's training camp, but never made it in any organization. He had his first pro match last December when he personally brought in Eddie Sharkey's PWA to the Quad Cities. Evidently he fell into disfavor with Brewer as Brewer had him buried. Allenger worked two matches as a baby, then changed gears to work as a heel. In an interview segment, he challenged the retired wrestler-host, and the host beat the snot out of him. Kevin's final match of the night had him win via DQ in 26 seconds over, get this, the ancient manager of the group. We have no idea what he did to get Rocky upset.

SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER AN incident a few years back when Hulk Hogan was about to wrestle One Man Gang in Rochester, NY. Someone from the crowd charged the ring and bodyslammed Gang before being arrested. The guy was charged and fined fifty dollars. He said at the time he wanted to become a professional wrestler and didn't know any other way to break into the sport. Larry Sharpe grabbed him and put him through the Monster Factory and today he's wrestling in the ICW as the Rochester Roadblock. He carries a construction roadblock with a flashing yellow light on it that he places over his opponents after pinning them.

THE PROMOTION THAT IS BEING RUN by Nelson Royal, George Scott and John Ringly (he's the one we couldn't remember last time) held their first TV taping this past weekend. We don't have details except that Ricky Steamboat was scheduled to appear. The show was to have been in Greenwood, SC. Paul Jones is working in the front office here as well as handling the manager's chores in front of the camera.

HOLLYWOOD HEAVYWEIGHT WRESTLING held their first card on 1/27 before 500-600 fans in Hollywood. Chavo Guerrero won a battle royal to become their first champion. A second show is scheduled for 2/18 at Club Lingerie in Hollywood.

A GROUP CALLED PRO AMERICA WRESTLING has started in Pennsylvania and will be running shows on cable systems throughout the central part of the state. They have put together some of the top independent wrestlers for some opening shows and plan a small Pay Per View venture on 2/26. Featured will be Bam Bam Bigelow vs Abdullah the Butcher for the PAW title in a cage match, plus Jules Strongbow vs Colonel DeBeers, Nikita Koloff vs Paul Orndorff, DC Drake vs Cheetah Kid (Ted Petty), and Junk Yard Dog vs Ron Bass.

FRED MAY HAS STARTED A NEW GROUP that he hopes will take up some of the slack left by the closing of Stampede. Several of the wrestlers who worked for Stu Hart will work for May and he's telling the boys he can have nightly work for them. He's picked up all the TV slots that Stampede left behind as well as the TSN slot (Canada's version of ESPN).

FRED JUNG IS ALSO GATHERING steam in his venture in the same area of Western Canada. A lot of the wrestlers from Calgary who won't work for May will work for Jung. They claim that May had more than just a little to do with Hart closing shop and they don't trust him. Jung has been using Chris Benoit, Larry Cameron and Davey Boy Smith, but without TV, it's not known how long he will be able to hold onto the talent.

STILL NO WORD ON THE STATUS of Windy City. One of the trainees, Rockin' Randy will be working some in the CWA but others seem to have vanished. We haven't heard from the Terminator in quite some time. A recorded announcement on the Windy city hotline is promoting a card on 2/17 in Hegewish, IL with Windy City champion Frank Melson defending the title against Roxy Cash plus ladies' matches. There may have been some structural reorganization, but we're still trying to decipher fact from speculation. We'll try to have answers next time around.

6 Pencil Points

WHO SELLS TICKETS?

I thought I should respond to the comment made about Oliver Humperdink (in the 1/30 Wrestling Forum) regarding selling tickets. You're right, he probably doesn't sell one ticket, but who does? Jim Cornette and Bobby Hennan are fun to watch live, but I doubt they sell tickets. The purpose of a manager is to get their guy(s) over to the fans. If you're suggesting that he (Humperdink) shouldn't be around because he doesn't sell tickets, then everyone except Flair and Luger would have to be canned.

-MIKE MILLER-

-Moline, IL-

TOP TEN ACTUAL REASONS FOR THE EDITOR'S RIGHT ARM INJURY

10. Trying to execute a brain buster on one of Erin's stuffed animals.
9. Made the save for Kelly when dancing with the Dudes.
8. Hurt when dialing the 900 number for "The Boys."
7. Mike and Joe do the Sledgeomatic to another Gallagher who refuses to believe their mothers really named them Hawk and Animal.
6. Just an excuse to lower his workrate.
5. While "signing" a Cornette interview for the hearing impaired.
4. Just an excuse to rush off to the coastal waters of Connecticut where the world's first polka-dotted whales have beached themselves.
3. While adding up who has more turns, Steve Williams or Paul Orndorff.
2. While doing the Sheepwhacker walk.
1. A Windhamish tactic used to hide from his employer thoughts of job jumping.

-PAT RAFFERTY-

-Baltimore, MD-

CLASH X COMMENTS

The 2/6 Clash was a major improvement for the NWA. The graphics and short videos before each entrance equalled, if not surpassed, those on Saturday Night's Main Event. I loved the Horsemen angle and it seemed to go over perfectly. The fan booed the Horsemen during the cage match and chanted "we want Sting." That shows just how well it came off. Ole Anderson deserves much credit for the best mike work he's done in five years. Sting's facial expressions also added greatly to the angle. The fans' reaction to the Great Muta during the cage match show that there may still be hope for him as a babyface.

Funny to see Luger thanking Funk for the "allocades." I thought he got that straightened out! I guess Cactus Jack has got 1990's Jobber of the Year won already, and deservedly so. That bump was simply awesome.

-DAN DeLIBERTY-

-Newtown Square, PA-

Is it just me, or do those new screen graphics make certain characters "seem" more like that character? Dr. Death got a push tonight, straight from the graphics department. As for the match with Samoan Savage, it wasn't as bad as it could have been. The interview segment with the Horsemen was well done, and everyone knew this would happen eventually anyway. But, it seemed like a turn without reason. Ole's reasons were fine, but he took less than 30 seconds to announce that Sting is out. Somehow I think turning Flair may be a mistake.

Why the band? WHY??? These guys looked like a bunch of...well, let's just say the Genius would have fit in nicely. I was waiting for the Wrestlemania Rap. The stipulations in the Norman-Sullivan match didn't make me more interested. I went to the pottie. I returned to find the wrestlers followed suit.. Funk's Grill was a total waste of time (no pun intended). Lex showed signs of turning. Are they going for a record number of turns in one show?

All in all, thumbs up, just for the Horsemen angle. Did you notice them using the trademarked "Can of Audience Response" a la Titan? They made the 2/25 show much more interesting. It still won't do better than about 1.3% buyrate though.

-MARK BENNETT-
-Jackson, MI-

I know everyone is going to talk about Cactus Jack's great bump on the Clash, but to me, it was a great thrill to see Mil Mascaras again. A dream come true would be Flair vs Mascaras on TBS.

-STEVE YOHE-
-Alhambra, CA-

Just watched Clash X...matches were mostly dull, and the skit with the Horsemen and Sting was pretty confusing. It almost seems like they did this as an afterthought to cover up something. But I'll have to admit, I was interested in the storyline.

-SEAN HENDRICK-
-Rochester, NY-

The Hyde side of the NWA's personality emerged tonight. The show sucked. Period.

-RANDY MONEELY-
-Highland Park, IL-

I wanted to comment on the latest Clash of Champions, mostly to say I thought it could have been a lot better. The bouts were just okay (Warrior Skyscrapers being the standout) and the "surprise" turn of the horsemen was, I feel, poorly timed.

The angle would have worked better if they had turned during the cage match, leaving Sting to be globbered or pinned by the heels. As it was, the crowd seemed to keep cheering for the heels, and the match was nowhere as good as it had the potential to be. Sting constantly charging toward the cage didn't help matters since it kept taking the camera away from the match.

The rest of the card was so-so, with Steiners-Doom being my vote for second best. I'll be interested to see what others thought of the bout.

-MIKE MCCULLOUGH-
-Riverdale, MD-

FUTURE OF WRESTLING

Over the past six years, I've set back and watched the decline of wrestling. We used to have twice a month cards in town and something was always happening. Stale wrestlers were on their way out and fresh blood was always on the way in. Then came Vince McMahon and the WWF.

I have to wonder if there is going to be any hope for the smaller independents. Wrestlers in Memphis and Texas can't make a living even when they work every night of the week. Talented rookies are not going to be opening cards anymore because talent is overlooked in favor of muscles and physiques.

Live shows now are more like going to a rock concert where they are more interested in you buying souvenirs than seeing the show.

If this is what the future of wrestling looks like, I'm not sure I want to be a part of it.

-LUPE MARTINEZ-
-Peoria, IL-

NWA

I NEVER REALLY LIKED WESTERNS in the first place.

THE NWA PRESENTED THEIR LATEST CLASH of Champions on February 6 from Corpus Christi Texas. I have mixed feelings about the show; it seemed to have gotten angles over, at least to the live crowd, put the way it was done, plus the quality of matches left a lot to be desired. Oh, Hell, let's be honest. It sucked.

THE SHOW OPENED WITH THE SAMOAN SAVAGE against Steve Williams. There are new WWF like graphics behind the wrestlers now for their interviews. Doc did a skit with him coming out of an ambulance and pretending to be a doctor. He carries a victim to the ambulance and pretends to do CPR on him (PLEASE!!!! DO NOT TRY THIS VERSION ON ANYONE FOR REAL!!!) which was one of the worst skits/clips I've ever witnessed. The match itself wasn't tremendous, though good in spots. Doc can work when he wants to, which unfortunately, isn't that often. After a short spot, Doc hooked Savage in a backslide for the pin. GRADE: C minus.

THEN CAME THE FIRST OF TWO LIVE FUNK'S GRILLS, this one with Flair, Sting and the Andersons (who they now have decided are brothers so forget anything you remember about them being cousins, uncles & nephews, or no relation at all). Ole informed Sting that he was no longer a horseman. That sure came out of no where. He told Sting that the only reason they invited him to join the group was to destroy him. He said the thing that prevented them from doing it earlier was him coming to Ric's aid when Ric was feuding with Funk. The second reprieve came when the Iron Man contest came about. Forget any semblance of time here. Forget the fact that Arn and Ole weren't with the NWA when this all allegedly started. In other words, this is a very weak explanation. If this were a book that had been sent to a publisher, it would have come back with a note saying, "Sorry, but this does not meet our current needs."

STING REACTED IN AMAZEMENT. OLE THEN TOLD HIM that he had two hours to give up his title match with Flair on the 25th. Sting grabbed Ole and Flair and Arn attacked him.

SO HERE WE GO. THE HORSEMEN DIDN'T WORK AS HEEL under the booking of Dusty Rhodes, so they rush a turn here. I think the turn is a good idea, though it wasn't set up well and was executed even worse. Later in the show I got to see just how poorly executed it was as Flair, Arn and Ole all got booed in their match with Sawyer, Muta and Dragon Master. It WAS effective, but poorly done.

THE NEXT MATCH HAD PILLMAN & ZENK VS THE MOD Squad. It featured lots of missed moves by both Pillman and Zenk. They were supposed to carry the match, and it was thought that Pillman would be able to, but he's still got a ways to go. Could be because the Jeffers are so new to the NWA. Anyway, the end came after a hot tag, Zenk came in and cleaned house. He was reversed on a whip into the turnbuckles and came off with a cross body block. Pillman came in to take care of the other MOD squader with a dropkick (really bad if he was too close). GRADE: D.

MILLS MASCARAS IS OVER FIFTY, BUT YOU'D NEVER know it from watching him. He wrestled Cactus Jack next in a 60-70's style match. Not bad. Jack decided that he wasn't going to get to take many bumps during the match, so he created his own with a pratfall over a chair outside the ring. The end came with Cactus Jack delivering a back breaker on the arena floor, then going up on the apron to do his flying elbow. Mascaras sneaked back in the ring and dropkicked Jack off the ring apron. Jack hit the floor 7-10 feet from the ring landing on the back of his head (shades of Memphis!). A crossbody block later (inside the ring) and Mascaras was the winner.

WHEN THEY CAME BACK FROM COMMERCIAL (give me ten minutes alone in the ring with the guy with the rubber face, please!) they were featuring a band called Tough Guys, the official band of World Championship Wrestling. I had to check twice coz I thought I had turned on Roller Games by mistake.

They had composed words to go along with the WCW theme. Cactus Jack didn't like the music and started chasing the guitar player, but the drummer (who just happened to be a wrestler none of us has ever heard of) stepped in between and he and Jack ended up brawling.

I STARTED LOOKING FOR JESSE AND VINCE to do a run in and clobber Jim Ross and Jim Cornete.

ESPECIALLY AFTER SEEING THE END OF THE next match. We had Norman vs Kevin Sullivan in a "falls (even though it was only a one fall match) count anywhere in the building" match. It started off hot with the two really putting out. Sullivan was working about the tightest match this side of a shoot. They fell out of the ring several times but when they fell out for good, everyone started to feel ripped off. They brawled down the aisle and into the backstage area (to the boos of the live crowd). Sullivan headed in a door and we find out it's the women's restroom. Norman insists "But I can't go in THERE!" just as a woman runs out (never mind how a woman got past security to get into a restroom back stage). Norman goes in and we hear a bunch of banging around and referee shouting, "That's it!" Sullivan staggers out and Norman follows with his hand raised, toilet seat and toilet paper in hand. The live crowd could watch the action on a giant screen TV, but I would guess they still felt ripped off. I can't help but think that the people who crucify the WWF for stuff like this will sing praises to the NWA for a "creative finish." Not me. Dumb. And a rip off. **GRADE: D minus** only because the first part of the match was decent.

THIS BRINGS TO MIND ANOTHER ANGLE OF THIS type that ended up in the john that I enjoyed. A couple years back they did a brawl in Memphis with Lawler that ended up with someone getting their head pushed down a toilet. They were semi-serious with that angle and the brawl flowed nicely (no pun intended) into the bathroom. Also, the cameras followed the action in. I think the reason they couldn't do that in this show was because the room really wasn't a restroom. I'm not positive on this.

ANOTHER FUNK'S GRILL WAS NEXT ON THE AGENDA and Terry had trouble getting any kind of reaction again. This time, his guest was the wordsmith Lex Luger who used the word "allocades" when I'm sure he meant accolades, and otherwise stumbled over everything he wanted to say until Funk finally cut him off for a commercial. Luger looked less than thrilled about being cut short.

STEVIE WONDER CALLED TO TELL ME THE FINISH of the next match. It had the Road Warriors vs the Skyscrapers. The match itself was okay. Dan Spivey has put some new lifts in his boots to make him look taller. The Roadies won on DQ when the Skyscrapers brought a chair into the ring. They stuff piledrove Hawk and bent the chair over his head (actually bending it by hitting the mat on the other side of his head) which looked okay. The trouble is, we knew the Roadies were going to get the holy snot beat out of them and we knew that Jim Ross would tell us that this was the worst beating he had ever seen the Road Warriors take. Amazing how the Warriors got up and walked out of the ring after the carnage was over. **GRADE: C+** but certainly not for the old tired finish. Problem is, with the Warrior's gimmick of being almost indestructible, everytime they leave them for dead, it lowers the fans' opinion of them just a little bit more.

THE BEST MATCH OF THE NIGHT WAS A BELT VS MASK match between the Steiners and Doom. The Steiners did about everything in the book including Rick's bearhug suplex and the Frankenstein. They worked Scott over during the body until Rick got a hot tag. He came in and got Butch Reed's mask loose. Rick put Reed in a side headlock and Reed shoved him off toward the ropes. The mask was SUPPOSED to have come off then, but it didn't and Rick had to come off the ropes and run by Reed, pulling it off then. Reed acted shocked and started to apologize to Ron Simmons and Rick sneaked up and rolled him up for the pin. The referee told a reluctant Simmons that he had to remove the mask or be banned from wrestling and he finally pulled it off to no one's (including Jim Ross') surprise. **GRADE: B minus.**

FINALLY, WITH LESS THAN TEN MINUTES TO GO in the show, they started the main event of Flair, Ole and Arn vs Muta, Dragon Master and Buzz Sawyer. The turn must have worked live, because the crowd cheered the former heels. Muta got the biggest reaction of the night (I think people really want to cheer for this guy anyway). They distracted us from the match by having Sting run in and climb the cage to get to Flair (the cage was one of those Coleco cages from the toy store). Sawyer did a leap from the top of the cage a la Superfly Snuka in MSG vs Backlund from eight or nine years back. The end came, though nearly missed due to the thing going on with Sting, had Arn DDT Dragon Master for the pin. **GRADE: C minus** and that might have been higher if we hadn't been so distracted.

ONLY TIME WILL TELL IF THIS WAS SUCCESSFUL, but personally, I didn't like the show. I thought the workrate was subpar, I thought the live interviews were rushed, and I thought the finishes left a lot to be desired.

SINCE I'M TYPING THIS THE DAY AFTER THE Clash, I haven't had time yet to check out a hunch, but I think Kevin Sullivan and Woman may be history. I think the Tidy Bowl Skit II upset some people at the top. Woman was shown taking her seat during the first match but we didn't hear from her after that. I think that she meant to play prominently in the finish of the Flair-Sting confrontation, but she was nowhere to be seen. I'll try to check this out by the end of the bulletin.

IN OTHER NEWS, JOE PEDICINO WAS FIRED from his broadcast position. Although they didn't say it directly, they thought that he was leaking information to the sheets. If he was, it certainly wasn't this one. The last time I talked with Joe was prior to Pro Wrestling This Week being bought out which must have been a year and a half ago. In fact, Joe quit subscribing shortly after PWIW bit the dust. The official reason he was let go is because he refused to turn heel as an announcer. Joe rejected the idea thinking that a heel turn might affect his full time business, an ad agency in Atlanta.

HOLD THE PHONE! WE'VE JUST LEARNED all sorts of stuff from backstage that explains a lot and creates some major, MAJOR problems.

FIRST, TULLY BLANCHARD WAS IN CORPUS Christi for the show. He had been originally scheduled to debut on the Clash. The plan was for him to come out during the Four Horsemen's interview with Ole, Arn and Ric taking him back with open arms. He was going to question Sting's membership and they were at that point going to ask him to leave. That's when the turn was going to take place. Trouble is, Jim Herd and Tully couldn't agree on money (again) and Tully walked. I told a caller over the phone that it had looked like to me that Ole had come up with the explanation for tossing Sting out while he was on his way to the ring. The caller told me I was pretty close. They had to change plans at the last minute.

HERE'S THE MAJOR PROBLEM...MANY OF YOU may have noticed that when Sting jumped off the cage the last time, he landed funny on his leg and was hobbling pretty good. He screwed up his leg good and according to my source, is in the hospital. I'm told there is no way he'll be ready to wrestle by the 25th, which presents several problems. First, they've turned Flair. Now they don't have a babyface challenger unless they turn Luger. But this weekend's show on TBS has already been taped, so unless they do some extensive editing, they will have only one week to turn Luger before the PPV.

YOU MIGHT BE THINKING THAT FLAIR, BEING a heel now, could defend the title against ANY babyface. But some behind the scenes powerplays are adamant about getting the title off of Flair. Talk about turmoil! If they manage to pull themselves out of this one, it's going to be a minor - no, a major miracle.

WHEN! THIS HAS BEEN INTERESTING TO put together. They broke into this weekend's shows and announced that Sting had been injured by the Horsemen, but they made it seem as though it didn't happen at the Clash. As of this writing, (2/13), Sting was to have surgery today and would not be able to wrestle at the 2/25 show. They have decided to give Luger the shot and as of yesterday, nothing had been decided on the finish. Flair had agreed to one in which he would lose the title, but during the match he would control all the offense and it would look much like a squash. Luger would win in the end with a small package or something equally as lame. Luger refused this finish as he wanted to be able to control some of the offense. I'm afraid that if they don't come up with a suitable ending, Luger either won't win the title or get the shot in the first place. I hate to do this to you, but we'll know by next issue.

IN THE US TAG TITLE TOURNAMENT, The first round has been completed. Zenk and Pillman beat the Royal Family, Midnight Express beat the Rock and Roll Express, Freebirds over Rich and Gilbert and The Dudes beat the MOD Squad. The next round will see Dudes vs Birds and Midnights vs Zenk & Pillman. If I had to predict a winner, I think I'd go with Zenk and Pillman.

DOUG FURNAS HAS DEBUTED AND IS BEING billed as the World's strongest man. He was scheduled to come in as a heel, but he was cheered in his debut match and so he worked it as a baby. He came back to the dressing room and Flair said, "Okay, you're a baby." Furnas is a good worker for such a bulky guy. He does a dropkick in which he does a 360° flip and lands on his feet. No wonder people were cheering.

I DON'T HAVE THE COMPLETE STORY on this next as it's been coming in in bits and pieces, but it sounds as if (if I've put it all together right) that Steve Williams and Great Muta will be headed for Japan to work more or less on a full time basis. I'm told that New Japan lost a good portion of its wrestlers and they offered these two nice contracts. I've been given conflicting stories as to when the offer is good for and we don't know if either will be available for the PPV.

THE WWF HAS PULLED OUT OF TRYING to sign Sid Vicious and as a result, Vicious has signed for an additional year with the NWA. Sources in the WWF tell me they were never really serious and that Vicious had initiated all the talks with them. They are hoping Vicious will be ready to wrestle once again in June.

THE ANNOUNCERS HAVE PLAYED musical chairs again. New partnerships include Jim Ross and Gordon Solie on the Power Hour, Ross and Cornette on the Saturday version and Ross and Missy Hyatt. Chris Cruise and Terry Funk will continue on the World Wide show, but their roles will be embellished a bit more. Cruise will become more and more of a babyface announcer and Funk will do more to support the heels. This is already been evidenced when the Midnights beat the Rock and Roll when Cruise complained about the heels cheating to win.

JIM ROSS KEEPS TELLING US ON TV that Buzz Sawyer will be on the Arsenio Hall show in March. Right now, no one from the production staff of the Hall show knows anything about it. One staff member told me, "maybe he's got tickets for the show."

FINALLY, I'M BEING TOLD THERE IS an effort afoot to get Buster Davis to work a show with the NWA. See the WWF report for full details. I've got a feeling this is just a rumor blown out of proportion and started with someone saying, "Hey, we ought to get Davis," and it working it way down to its present form. It would be quite a coup though.

DOES ANYONE ELSE FIND IT STRANGE that Missy Hyatt suddenly disappeared from the wrestling scene only to reappear eight to nine months later? Does anyone else find it strange that her scheduled debut on Main Event was pushed back a few weeks, allegedly to get rid of her southern accent and then she still sounds southern when she appears? Could it be that the word "Pampers" will become (or has become) a frequently used word in the Gilbert's vocabulary? Answers to these and other burning questions next time around (we hope).

THE PHANTOM OF THE RING, by Ed Garea

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

TYSON TO REFEREE HOGAN/SAVAGE MATCH - On the surface this sounds like a coup for Vince McMahon and a sucker punch on Mike Tyson. Rumors are flying about a possible Hogan/Tyson PPV match and all the attendant reasons as to why this will not take place. Well, gang, this corner is definitely betting that it will happen.

In the first place, why would Tyson agree to become involved in professional wrestling? For one thing, he's not hurting for money; even if he were, what he can make from HBO for one fight is substantially more than he will get from McMahon. For another thing, wrestling is definitely a comedown for the World's Heavyweight Champion. Tyson is a boxer who has studied all the great past boxers; why would he want to disgrace himself in this manner? He has to be aware of what it did for Muhammad Ali.

No, Tyson would not get involved in wrestling without a good reason. That good reason could be as follows: Do you remember that car accident Tyson had over a year ago, when he slammed his car into that tree near his home in the Catskills? I've had the feeling for quite a while now that the accident did more damage neurologically to Iron Mike than is known to the public. It has affected his balance and his ability to both punch and take a punch. Right now, he is still O.K., though he has shown weaknesses. Given his current schedule of Buster Douglas and Evander Holyfield, Tyson should have little trouble. Douglas is a stiff and Holyfield had much trouble with the likes of Alex Stewart, who is a Tyson-type fighter. It is most interesting to consider the guy Tyson ducked, Razor Ruddock. Ruddock is a fighter with a good upper-cut, and this is what Tyson (or more to the point, Don King) fears. If Ruddock were to accidentally land one on Mike, he would not be able to get up. Also consider that his sparring partner, Greg Page, whose style is much like that of Ruddock, floored Tyson in Japan. Tyson did not slip; no, he was knocked down.

Will Tyson eventually appear in a wrestling PPV? I would say yes, without a doubt. Will he face Hogan? Probably not, for nothing would be gained. Most likely he would team with the Hulkster to face Savage and a suitable partner. From what I've gathered from close sources, Tyson is supposed to inadvertently knock out Savage during the course of the Feb. 23rd match. Why doesn't he knock out Hogan? Also, Vince and Don King would have the best of both possible worlds if Iron Mike and the Hulk team up. People would buy the PPV just to see Tyson fight. Teaming him with Hogan would do wonders for Iron Mike's image.

So, it could be that perhaps Iron Mike is doing more than simply refereeing a wrestling match. He could very well be insuring his future in case the boxing career goes down the hopper. An astute fan of boxing history such as he would no doubt be aware of the career of one Primo Carnera.

Carnera was a story all by himself. The first heavyweight champion to be put over by the mob (Though not the first champion; Arnold Rothstein, best known as the man who fixed the 1919 World Series, guided the career of one Abe Atell through the featherweight ranks.), Carnera met a bloody fate at the hands of Max Baer, who beat him to a pulp in a fight that wasn't fixed. Toots Mondt convinced Carnera to become a wrestler; actually, it didn't take much convincing.

Carnera wrestled for about 16 years under his own name. He never used an alias; he didn't need one, his own name was star power enough. How was he as a wrestler? From tapes I've seen he was a brawler who depended on his size and needed another wrestler to carry him. He had good bouts with Antonio Rocca because Rocca could carry him. Against the likes of Hans Hermann, however, forget it.

Carnera was an exception; ex-boxers usually don't last very long in wrestling. "Two-Ton" Tony Galento lasted about two years and Joe Louis lasted about six months. In Louis' case, a broken back forced him out of the game. Some say that Louis' back was broken intentionally by the boys, who were jealous of Louis' payoffs. Would Tyson make it as a wrestler? I don't think so, for he has neither the temperament for the patience to travel the road. If Tyson were to go into wrestling, he would do so only for a few fast big PPV paydays, for wrestling is harder than it looks.

WHITHER THE NWA - Poor Ted Turner. It looks bad for him. Did he make a mistake when he bought the NWA? Why is he being topped consistently by the WWF? Why is not the NWA producing a good product, and marketing a good product?

That's all I've been hearing since Turner bought the NWA; from the sound of it one would think that Turner is a rich idiot who has nothing else better to do than throw away his money.

To you detractors and worriers I have only this to say: Lighten up. Ted Turner is nobody's fool. Consider his history: when he founded Cable News Network, he lost money year after year. However, he did turn the company around and get it into the black. He has done the same with the Atlanta Hawks as well as with WTBS. Who ever thought they'd see the day when a UHF station out of Atlanta would become one of America's most respected stations? Consider also the success of TNT; now that Turner has experience in the field of television, TNT was simply no problem to market and make into an overnight success.

What I'm saying is not to worry, Ted Turner will eventually turn the NWA around. It takes time and Turner is not a wrestling promoter. Yes, he will make mistakes, but he wouldn't have bought the NWA to simply watch it fail. I've noticed that he has vastly improved the marketing, tying it in with his other product lines, such as videos, posters and CNN mugs and tee-shirts. I predict that by 1992 Turner will be winning the promotional wars against McMahon. Turner can do this simply because wrestling is not his only business, and he can simply afford to build slowly and correctly. Capital can do that for a businessman. All I know is that every venture Turner has involved himself in, whether it be the Goodwill Games or Headline News, has proven to be a winner.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

Our column this issue comes from a fan in Minnesota who wishes to remain anonymous and takes a look at some of the wrestlers who have worked for the AWA in the past few months. As always, this column is based on the experiences of one individual and your experience might be different. If you would like to make a contribution to this column, be our guest. We will withhold your name on request.

Without further ado, let's get on to this month's column...

COLONEL DEBEERS

A really nice guy who is interested in a variety of subjects. Very personable and was more interested in asking me questions than answering mine. When he did get around to answering my questions, he was very open.

DERRICK DUKES

a fun guy who'll talk your leg off if you hand him a sheet. He loves to read them and has an opinion on every wrestler, angle and gimmick ever tried.

GREG GAGNE

I figured the best way to approach him would be as a total mark. Not even that worked. This guy is a complete, certified jerk. He couldn't even take a compliment.

PAUL DIAMOND

Very laid back, almost to the point of being shy. He didn't talk much one way or the other, but did acknowledge the sheets.

LARRY ZBYSZKO

He must have had some of the Gagne blood seep into his veins. He's very distant and carries his heel personality wherever he goes. Acknowledged sheets only to run them into the ground. Seemed to be genuinely bothered by other autograph seekers.

RICKY RICE

Open, but stuck on himself. He also seemed to be bothered by those wanting autographs, though something told him that as a babyface, he probably ought to sign. Was more interested in nice looking female seekers than little kids with their dads. Wasn't ashamed to show interest in front of little kids.

BARON VON RASCHKE

Very quiet, but very cooperative. He's willing to pose for pictures with him posing with the claw if you like. He likes to mug for the camera. He speaks without the accent (of course) but will not talk shop.

NICK BOCKWINKEL

He's so polished that he comes off as being somewhat of a jerk. He may have talked shop at the convention, but he didn't in person. Very critical of newsletters once he did get going, saying that the editors hadn't experienced being in the ring and had no idea what they were writing about. He would go that far, but wouldn't comment on anything else inside the business. Seemed to enjoy attention, providing he was the center of it, and was very nice about signing autographs.

DALE GAGNER

Most willing to talk, but he kept looking over his shoulder like he was expecting someone to come up and stop him.

MEMPHIS/UNITED STATES WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

FROM THE TEXAS END OF THINGS, the promotion has decided to pull the World Class syndicated show from all markets where they don't normally run. In most cases, they have to pay for the time slot and the money they get from some of the advertising isn't enough to justify continuing after the contracts with stations expire. Some contracts have another year or so to run, so they will remain on some channels for quite a while before pulling the broadcast. In rare cases where the program is on either free of charge or on a barter system, it will remain.

BACK TO MEMPHIS FOR A WHILE... Jerry Lawler did a shoot interview on the 2/3 show that should go down in wrestling history. He came out with a surgical gown and mask on and had two cups with names on the cups. He said he was going to prove that Kerry Von Erich and Jeff Jarrett were on steroids. He went on about how wrestling had forgotten about teaching newcomers how to wrestle and concentrated on pumping them up. He said that Jeff weighed 135 pounds before he started taking steroids to build up his muscles. He named the Road Warriors and Sting from the NWA and Hulk Hogan and the Ultimate Warrior from the WWF as being chemically built up. He said that Jeff went to Texas and Kerry was responsible for getting him on the juice. Lawler had a machine which he would put probes into the cups of urine ("This is not a taste test," Lawler assured the audience and if they contained traces of steroids, the machine would beep and whistle (sure, Jerry)). Naturally, the machine did its thing and allowed Lawler to go on a while longer about steroid abuse and tell everyone that he was going to be the Avenger.

A LOT OF TIME WAS SPENT ON this since the only wrestlers they had in the studio that day were two jobbers, Keith Eric and Ken Rapier, two tag teams, Fuller and Lee plus the Southern Rockers, Lawler who was busy on color and an injured King Cobra. This made doing a ninety minute show a little difficult, but they managed with the aid of videos from Texas.

The first match of the 2/3 show (an a perfect example of Memphis' booking - they give wrestlers the finish and angles the same day they are to be done, usually just before their scheduled match), the two jobber wrestled. Lawler was on Eric's side and after a ref bump (a ref bump in a jobber match!?!?), Lawler came in the ring and piledrove Rapier.

A video was next, recounting the Dirty White Boy - Chris Champions feud. Champion had won Dirty White Girl in a match over the past month. Another match had been signed in the feud with special stip. If DWB won the match, he would get DWG back. If Champion won, DWB had to go in a box with Champion's pet snake Elvis. That match took place on the 2/5 Memphis show and it was won by Champion.

ANOTHER VIDEO WAS SHOWN FROM Texas with Jerry Lawler in the ring, insulting the fans at ringside and challenging them to come in the ring with him (that's dangerous). Kerry Von Erich ended up taking the challenge but while he and Lawler argued, Billy Joe Travis snuck up and clobbered Kerry with the guitar (is there anyone out there who remembers a cartoon called "El Ca-Bong?").

BACK IN THE STUDIO, THE SOUTHERN Rockers made their first appearance in a match against USWA tag champs Brian Lee and

Robert Fuller. The Rockers are the same Rex King and Steve Doll who worked recently in Portland. The Rockers won the titles with a sunset flip and pin on Lee.

A WHILE LATER IN THE SHOW, FULLER and Lee came out and complained about losing. They offered the Rockers \$1000 if they could beat them again, right then and there. Eddie Marlin okayed the match and this time the Rockers pinned Robert Fuller. They took the money and ran with Fuller and Lee putting up the expected tantrums in the ring.

STILL LATER IN THE SHOW (SAME ONE), Fuller and Lee came out again, this time with \$2000 and wanted another rematch. The Rockers accepted only this time Fuller loaded his boot and Lee had his feet on the ropes to regain the titles less than an hour after having lost them in the first place. The two teams were not scheduled to meet on the 2/5 Memphis card (Rockers were scheduled against Jeff Gaylord and Sheik Braddock and Fuller and Lee were to wrestle JJ Funk and Dustin Rhodes) but they did with the heels winning the unannounced bout by Count Out.

COBRA DID NOT WRESTLE ON THE CARD because he was still hurting from the office chair Jerry Lawler threw at him the week before. The chair potatoed Cobra from behind when Lawler tossed it. Lawler's part on the 2/5 show was to team with Soul Taker and lose to Kerry and Jeff.

THE 2/10 TV SHOW HAD A LITTLE different logo to open the show, this one incorporating the USWA. Still, within minutes of the show's opening, they were doing a plug for themselves for fundraising efforts and they gave the Hendersonville, TN address for those wanting help with fundraising. That was their way of telling us that that office is still open (even though anyone will rarely answer the phone).

NOT A WHOLE LOT HAPPENED ON THIS SHOW. Plowboy Stan Frazier is in for a bit and worked a 25 second match for TV. He was badly blown up afterwards and looked and sounded like he might need oxygen to make it through his interview. He will have Memphis radio personality George Klein as his manager on the 2/12. Jerry Lawler came out and it was announced that he will be defending the USWA Undisputed title against Frazier on the Memphis show. Frazier slapped Lawler and said that if he couldn't win the title, then he would leave town. Short stay. Lawler beat him on that card.

CHRIS CHAMPION AND DIRTY WHITE BOY continued in their feud. In what should be the final (or next to final) confrontation, DWB came out demanding to know the whereabouts of DWG. They signed a match for 2/12 that had more special stipps. If DWB won the match, then he was to get DWG back. If Champion won the match, the DWB would have to leave town. Lawler kept trying to get DWB to give up on his quest to get DWG back. Lawler told him that she probably had red marks all over her since guys had been pushing her away and touching her with the proverbial ten foot pole. In that match, Dirty White Boy won the bout. We don't have details on the win or if DWG went with him or not. She had in the past displayed an attitude of aloofness towards DWB.

THE REASON WE THINK THIS FEUD MAY be winding down, is because on the 2/10 TV show, Chris Champion was wrestling the Terror and had won the first fall of the 2 of 3 fall match. Lawler jumped in the ring for the third fall and they went nose to nose for a bit before Lawler hightailed it out of the ring.

Matching these two up would be a shot in the arm of sorts... Champion is the most over of the babies in the group with Lawler doing an excellent job with his work as the lead heel. The right lead in for this and business in Memphis might pick up.

DUTCH MANTELL IS REPORTEDLY NWA bound within the next few weeks and so he's being buried here. He's been working the opening bouts on the Memphis shows (usually the payoff for this match is in the \$25.00 range). On the last two cards he's worked opposite Bill Dundee, going to a double count out two weeks ago and losing this past Monday night.

IN TEXAS, GARY YOUNG AND CHRIS Youngblood are doing an entertaining gimmick as the Lone Texas Ranger and Pronto. The natural feud here is with Dustin Rhodes and JJ Funk.

HEEL ANNOUNCER TERRANCE GARVIN is involved in an angle where the babyfaces are trying to get even with him for ranking on them during matches. Jeff Jarrett tried to get him to join in a battle royal that was to have taken place on 2/9, but Garvin refused. Someone from the USWA office threatened him that if he didn't take part and sign a contract, he would be kicked out of the USWA as an announcer. Garvin signed and will take part.

JOHN TATUM, WHO WILL BE BEST remembered for bringing Missy Hyatt into the business (though that's a fact she would prefer we forget) is working here part time with a Ric Flair gimmick. This is a bit of a surprise since he also works for an independent in the Dallas area run by Killer Tim Brooks.

CHRIS ADAMS DID A PLUG FOR HIS wrestling school after a tag match with his "star pupil" Steve Williams (not Dr. Death). Chris built him up saying that it only took him five months worth of training to make it to the USWA. Steve then became kind of arrogant and insisted that Adams call him by the name Steve Austin, the name he uses when he works the Memphis end of the circuit (not the Six Million Dollar Man, either). He then started challenging Adams, but Chris told him he wasn't that good yet. Chris ended up walking off the set and Austin began calling him a coward. Adams came back and Austin jumped on him and was getting the better of the situation until Adams caught him in a UWF style arm bar. Austin apologized while in the hold and said that he had made a mistake. Adams let him up and walked out, but Austin jumped him again, hit him with a foreign object and "pinned" him.

FINALLY, PERCY PRINGLE TOOK OVER the broadcast duties for Mark Lowrance last week, but evidently Kerry Von Erich didn't notice the difference. He called Percy "Mark," and Percy correct him. That didn't stop old eagle-eye Kerry who continued to call Percy "Mark" several more times with Percy correcting him each time. "Okay, one more time," (close up of frying pan), "This is your brain...."

8 World Wrestling Federation

WE HAVE A PARTIAL LINE UP FOR WRESTLEMANIA VI and here it is: The Main Event, of course, will be Hogan vs Ultimate Warrior. A mixed tag will feature Dusty & Sapphire vs Randy Savage & Sherri. Ted DiBiase goes against Jake Roberts and I imagine we'll see some special stipps of some sort. In a battle of former partners, Akeem takes on Bossman. Sit down for these next two... Hercules vs Earthquake John Tenta, which is bad news, but wait, it gets worse... Jim Duggan vs Dino Bravo (and it hurt to just type that). Koko B Ware will wrestle Rick Martel and Brutus Beefcake will go up against Curt Hennig.

THE TORONTO SUN IS REPORTING AN ADDITIONAL match for Wrestlemania: Andre and Haku vs the Sheephackers and they are reporting there will be a title change. Take that with a grain of salt. The guy who writes for the Sun is a WWF shill who prints whatever they tell him. He's been wrong more often than right and is the same guy who last July reported that Ric Flair would lose his title to Terry Funk on the Baltimore Bash PPV and then defect to the WWF.

WE EXPECT FOR AT LEAST THREE MORE MATCHES to be added to the line up and I would guess that one of them will be a battle royal as in years past to make sure some of the names that aren't "main eventing" get a Wrestlemania payoff.

ONE OF TITAN'S NEW POLICIES IS TO RECOGNIZE some things that happened on a TV taping that had not yet been seen on TV. Title changes are the most obvious, but on the latest set of tapings from Miami, they did something a little differently. On the previous set, they had turned Bossman. It had not been shown on TV yet, but they needed to have him as a baby to get him more over for the Miami tapings. What they did was a dark interview with Mean Gene and Jake the Snake. Jake explained what had happened on the previous set of tapings to the assembled. This allowed Bossman to be a baby without this being shown on TV first. Folks may have been a little confused since just the day or so before they had seen Bossman with Slick as a heel against Jim Duggan in the Royal Rumble.

HERE ARE THE REST OF THE MATCHES FOR Wrestlemania...Andre and Haku will face Demolition, contrary to what the Toronto Sun says. Roddy Piper and Bad News Brown will square off as will Jimmy Snuka and Rick Rude. The Rocker and Orient Express (Pat Tanaka & Akio Sato) will probably try to save the show single handedly (or would that be cotuple-handedly), Tito Santana will wrestle the Barbarian and The Hart Foundation vs the Bolsheviks rounds out the card.

SEVERAL NEW FACES WILL BE APPEARING ON selected shows. Playboy Buddy Rose, Sivi Afi, Black Bart, Pez Whatley, and Mike Davis are all working some TV and the undercards of house shows. None of them are promised full time work and most of them will be doing jobs when they do appear. There has been some talk of the same deal for wrestlers like Scott Hall, Buddy Landell and Owen Hart as well.

OUR LOCAL PAPER CARRIED A STORY ABOUT Vince McMahon and boxing promoter Don King have been talking about the possibility of an eventual Hogan-Tyson match. This pretty well confirms that Tyson will not be part of this year's Wrestlemania and that his role at the February 23rd show will be more or less to draw media attention. The story quoted King as saying that after Evander Holyfield and George Foreman, there are no big money fights left for Tyson other than Hogan. There have been other wrestler-boxer matches in the past, the most memorable of recent times being Muhammed Ali vs Antonio Inoki. That was to have been a worked match, but ended up a shoot (a lame one) with Inoki laying on his back, kicking at Ali. A match between Hogan and Tyson would no doubt be billed as a shoot, but there's no way that would happen. I would be somewhat surprised to ever see it happen in the first place, mainly because one little miss by Tyson would destroy Hogan, the WWF and wrestling.

THIS THROWS A FLY INTO THE OINTMENT. James "Buster" Davis has just knocked out Mike Tyson to become the new "Undisputed" Boxing champion. I have no idea how this will affect the referee's job he has on the 23rd, but I'd be willing to bet that Vince McMahon is talking to himself over this one.

WRESTLEMANIA VII (yeah, 7, not 6) is being planned already. Sources outside the business are reporting that Titan has chosen the Los Angeles Coliseum. Folks at the Coliseum will not confirm or deny the booking, but are only saying that they are in the running for the event. Plans are to announce during this year's Wrestlemania the site for next year so that they have a full year to sell the place out.

WRESTLEMANIA DOES SELL TICKETS. THEY haven't even announced the main event yet (though many can guess what it's going to be) and they've (as of Sunday, 2/11) have sold about half of the 60,000+ tickets for nearly \$2 million Canadian. I would guess that after the main event is announced officially, the rest of the tickets will go in the week. They are supposed to announce the main event on the 2/12 edition of Prime Time Wrestling.

LAST WEEK'S SHOW HAD AN INTERVIEW with Ultimate Warrior, and I'm not sure what was said because I only understand about half of what he says (I'm serious). I do know at the end, he said something about Hulk Hogan and the "Ultimate Challenge" so that was pretty well a give away to the not-so-dense casual fans. The really dense ones are still going to think you can rent Wrestlemania VI at the local video stores on 4/1.

LOCALLY, THE WWF IS IN PEORIA ON 2/12 and I hope to have a full report on what promises to be a lackluster card. The local TV station that carries the NWA (at 12:30 am Monday mornings) is helping to promote the card even though they don't (yet) carry the WWF (no station in Peoria carries Titan). They've been building the card up on the nightly sportscast plus they have a used car showcase for two hours every night where dealers try to sell used cars over the air that they have been doing heavy promoting on. The hosts of the show are wearing WWF caps and giving away tickets with test drives. This means that they are going to have the place heavily papered, but I should be able to get a paid attendance figure by the end of the bulletin whether or not I attend. For some reason, the WWF has had trouble drawing over 2000 or so in Peoria since they did a TV taping there a couple years back (Savage turned babyface - that's how long ago it was).

HERE'S THE SCOOP ON THE TYSON INVOLVEMENT... The finish of the Hogan Savage match was to have been Tyson knocking out Savage. Things may have drastically changed since Tyson lost (or did he...that's a controversy as of Monday) his fight. Savage reportedly nixed the idea of being KO'd and the WWF is embarrassed because they have a former champion doing the reffing. Some sources report that Tyson may not even show up. One source told me that the WWF may just conveniently forget that Tyson was ever even mentioned. NBC will reportedly bury the program later in the evening's schedule and will not hype it as much as they had planned. The story line behind all this was to have been Ultimate Warrior squashing Dino Bravo in less than a minute and then Warrior challenging Hogan to beat that time. Afterwards, Warrior was to have said something to the effect that now we know who the Ultimate wrestler really is (since Hogan was to have had help from Tyson in beating Savage). Remember, this may all be down the toilet and a lot hinges on Tyson and whether Joe Blanchard, er ah, Verne Gagne, I mean Don King, (yeah...that's the ticket, Don King) changes the decision after reviewing the tape.

THE PEORIA SHOW WASN'T NEARLY AS BAD as it could have been. You'll see what we mean when we cover the line up. First up was Conquistador #1 (no idea who it was under the hood but it wasn't Rivera or Estrada...this guy was huge) vs Jim Powers. There was a lot of stalling and it drew heat from the crowd. Not bad for an opening match and both guys tried hard. Powers won when Conquistador charged him in the corner and Powers sort of sunset flipped him and hooked his arms with his legs. GRADE: C+.

NEXT WAS LANNY POFFO VS JIM NEIDHART in a horrid match. Poffo did his gay act and Neidhart did his power stuff. After Poffo got knees in his stomach from a failed moonsault, it was nothing but a squash with Anvil winning it with a powerslam. GRADE: F (and that's being real nice).

GREG VALENTINE VS TITO SANTANA WAS not only a nice surprise (since Ron Garvin was on the card) but also the best match of the night. That's not saying a lot. Four years ago, this was a hot match, and they did seem to work a similar match to four years ago. It came down to a battle of the figure fours with Tito finally getting his applied, but Greg made it to the ropes. Greg pinned Tito with his feet on the ropes. GRADE: B-.

CURT HENNIG MAY BE ONE OF THE TOP FIVE WRESTLERS in the world right now, but not even that had a prayer of making his match with Jim Duggan a good one. Hennig spent a lot of time out of the ring, each time taking a different route. He worked his butt off, but, well, it's all been said before. The end was a travesty of justice if ever there were one with Duggan arguing with Poffo on the apron and Hennig charging. Jim moved, Genius and Perfect collided and - horror of horrors - Duggan pinned Curt clean in the middle. It was not a pretty sight (Hi-ooooo, USA! USA!) GRADE: D+, all for Hennig.

THEY ANNOUNCED THE MAIN EVENT FOR WRESTLEMANIA as Warrior (good a good amount of cheers) vs Hogan (more cheers, but quite a few boos as well). Thought that was interesting. More interesting than the rest of the card, at least.

THE NEXT MATCH SHOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD, but it wasn't. Terry Taylor wrestled Al Perez. Perez played the complete heel, but the match didn't have one single example of chain wrestling and it wasn't fluid at all. The momentum traded back and forth all the way through with each exchange ending in a rest hold. Perez missed a shoulder block into the turn buckle and Taylor turned it into a chicken wing for a submission win. GRADE: C-.

THE WORST MATCH OF THE NIGHT FOLLOWED with Ron Garvin boring Steve Lombardi to death. The side headlock fans of the world would have loved this match, but Peorians didn't. After the Garvin stomp, Ron put Steve in the scorpion and got a submission. GRADE: Z.

FINALLY, ANDRE & HAKU DEFENDED THE BELTS against Demolition. Andre almost became the first wrestler in history to do a stretcher job on the way TO the ring. He's in worse shape than I could have imagined. A shocker: the best part of the match was while Andre was in the ring! He was being choked by Axe and Haku came in to help. Smash met him half way across the ring with a clothesline. After Demolition tagged, they repeated the same sequence. The end came with Demolition being counted out, after which they attacked the heels and counted their own pinfall on Haku. It wasn't nearly as bad as I had expected and earned a C.

ATTENDANCE FOR THE CARD WAS 3103, WHICH "Included a few freebies," according to the Peoria Civic Center box office. A source from the TV station estimates that 500 tickets were given to various sponsors, but they had no idea how many tickets were used of that number. The gate (which in Illinois is public knowledge since it's run by a state agency) will not be available until next week. I'd guess that of the 3103, 1200 of them were kids, twelve and under. There was a pre card autograph party with Hacksaw Jim Duggan who was very cordial to all and didn't even mind posing for a picture with Kelly, Erin and myself. Hi-ooooooooo!

AND WE THOUGHT THINGS WERE COMING IN hot and heavy for the NWA report! As of 2/14, 2:30 pm, it was being reported that Mike Tyson has pulled out of the 2/23 Detroit show. No one from Titan will confirm this, but sources close to Don King say that Tyson will not be a part of the show.

ONE TITANITE DID TELL ME THAT THE plans for the show will be slightly different. There is a possibility that they will use a half hour to hour tape delay to the country because of what has happened in the past on live shows (Brutus Beefcake doing a run in too early last year, Hogan asking for a count down and Mean Gene "fornicating under the consent of the King" when a sign fell down).

TV TAPES WERE DONE LAST NIGHT (2/13) AND TONIGHT in Phoenix and somewhere else close to Phoenix (how's that for accurate reporting). NO word on what was shot, but we should have full details next issue.

I DO KNOW THAT REPRESENTATIVES from New Japan and All Japan were on hand to watch and finalize details on the 4/13 Tokyo Dome show. We'll have that line up in a few seconds.

TERRY GORDY MAY BE COMING IN. He will work in Japan against Hogan and I know that they have recorded new music for a new corner.

THE COMPLETE (almost) LINE UP for 4/13 includes some potentially good matches (some may be match of the year candidates) and some real stinkers as well. Hogan will wrestle Terry Gordy for the first time in the main event Randy Savage will face Genchiro Tenryu. In what could be the worst match of all time and certainly the worst tag team ever assembled (beating out JYD & Ivan Putski which I was privileged to see live), Demolition will take on (sit down folks...) Andre the Giant and Giant Baba. Ultimate Warrior will go against Ted DiBiase (they don't trust Warrior to work with a native yet). Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu team against Curt Hennig & Rick Martel (another potentially good match). Bossman wrestles Riki Choshu. Greg Valenti will renew an old feud with Kabuki. Snuka and Santana team against Sato and Hashimoto. In what could be the best match of the year, Bret Hart works with Tiger Mask. Jake Roberts vs Masa Chono in the final announced match. In addition, there will be one New Japan singles match and an All Japan six man tag team match with the participants to be announced this coming weekend.

ON THEIR WAY TO JAPAN, THE WWF will stop off and do a show in Hawaii, probably Honolulu. Not sure of the line up for that show.

RANDY SAVAGE IS SCHEDULED TO BE a guest on the Arsenio Hall show on 2/20 to promote the 2/23 card. That may be our first clue as to whether or not Mike Tyson will be there and if he's not going to be, who will take his place. Naturally, the tapings in the southwest were the last ones to be done before this show.

ONE TITAN SOURCE IS STILL CLAIMING to have a lock on signing Paul E. Dangerously. They tell me that he has a definite March 1 start date. Out of the three or four Titan people I talk to on a regular basis, this one is the only one claiming this information. The others don't deny it, they say they just don't know anything about it.

ANDRE THE GIANT IS BEING FEATURED IN a new commercial for Honeycomb cereal. He plays a nice giant who says a few words. They did a voice over for the speaking parts with someone you can understand. It's the only clue that it's not Andre actually doing the speaking.

ROYAL RUMBLE HIT THE VIDEO STORES last week and the managers of the two places I usually go say they have a hard time keeping it in the store. They said that was the way it was after most WWF tapes are released. Our new BLOCKBUSTER store says it has good rental business on Halloween Havok as well as all the Wrestlemania tapes that are out.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

1/22 RALEIGH, NC (NWA) - Samoan Savage beat Ranger Ross...Sullivan over Norman...Dudes beat Midnight Express...SST pinned Rock & Roll Express...Steiners defeated Doom...Flair pinned Luger...Ole, Arn & Sting over Muta, Dragon Master & Sawyer...NOTES: Attendance: 1200...After Dudes beat Express, they got Jim Cornette...Shane (?) ended up pinning him...Robert Gibson did a clean job...last match was in a cage.

1/26 LOS ANGELES (WWF) - courtesy of GARY YATES...Earthquake squashed Terry Taylor (F)...Superfly Snuka beat Greg Valentine by DQ (C-)...Ron Garvin downed Brooklyn Brawler (C+)...Koko B Ware pinned Black Bart (B)...Andre/Haku by COR over Demolition (D)...Dingbat pinned Dino Bravo (B)...Piper beat Rude in a cage (B+)...NOTES: Attendance: 7500...Jesse Ventura was in crowd and interfered in cage match...when Piper tried to climb ot, Jess climbed the outside of the cage and shoved him back in...when Piper called for the door to be opened, Jesse came up and slammed it on Piper's foot...They both climbed out of cage at same time, but referee gave the match to Piper because of Jesse's interference...Rude bladed...Snuka bumped ref and Valentine revived him, but ref gave match to Snuka...very confusing.

1/27 HOLLYWOOD (IND) - courtesy of ERIC CAIDIN...Tim Tall Tree DDQ Stephen DeLeon...Colibri the Giant Killer defeated Shamu II...Incredible Konan pinned the Predator...Reggie Von Braun over Sister Slash by DQ...Mighty Atoms defeated Wrestling Re-Animators...Chavo Guerrero won a battle royal...NOTES: attendance 500-600...Colibri won the "world lighthweight championship" be defeating Shamu II...Mighty Atoms consist of highly touted Superboy & Nightstalker II.

2/2 PROVIDENCE, RI (WWF) - courtesy of LOUIE FORTUNA...Poffo beat Neidhart...Martel pinned Beefcake...Hercules over Conquistador...Hennig over Hogan by COR...Sheepwhackers beat Bolsheviks...Koko pinned Bob Bradley...Dusty over Savage by COR...NOTES: Attendance: 7000...Hennig did run in to KO Neidhart...Luke used Zhukov's own boot to KO him...Dusty & Savage outside ring and Sherri gabbed Rhodes...Randy went to hit Dusty, but he moved and Savage hit Sherri instead...Dusty jumped back in the ring to beat the count.

2/3 SPRINGFIELD, MA (WWF) - courtesy of DAN REILLY...Hercules defeated Conquistador #2 (F)...Earthquake flattened Paul Roma (C)...Duggan pinned Honky Tonk Man (C-)...Warrior beat Bravo (C+)...DiBiase over Jake by COR (B)...Jim Powers bored Frenchie Martin...Sheepwhackers defeated Bolsheviks (F)...NOTES: Attendance: 1500...Jake got biggest pop of the night...Earthquake came in after the pin and stomped on Warrior for a while...Jake & Ted billed as rematch from Hartford last time...trouble is, they had cancelled the Hartford show due to bad weather.

FLASH...FLASH...FLASH...FLASH...FLASH...FLASH...FLASH...FLASH...
WRESTLING PROMOTER MARK TENDLER was found shot last night (2/14) He was found outside his bar in Wade River Long Island at 7:50 pm behind the wheel of his car. He had a bullet hole in the back of his head. Police have no suspects in the shooting nor do they have a motive. Tendler was reported to be in critical condition at Stoney Brook University Hospital in Long Island early Thursday morning, the 15th.

* * MISCELLANEOUS STUFF * *

OPENING ON A SAD NOTE, WHIPPER BILLY WATSON, former NWA champion, died February 4 after suffering a heart attack earlier in the month. Watson, nee William Potts, had won the world title in 1947 and 1956. He held the tag team championship with Pat Flanagan and retired in 1971 as the British Empire Champion after being disabled in a car accident. His most memorable matches were against Gorgeous George in Toronto when he beat George in a hair vs hair match. Clips of GG being shaved bald are among some of the most popular wrestling footage ever shot. George challenged Watson to a return match with Watson putting his hair on the line against that of Gorgeous George's wife. George's wife ended up having her hair shaved as well. Watson was forced into retirement following an accident in 1971 when he stopped to help a fellow motorist while on an icy highway. A third car skidded out of control and pinned Watson's legs against the other cars. Watson was quite active in charity work in Canada where he was active in the annual Easter Seals fundraiser, the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Canadian Paraplegic Association, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, the Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled and the Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf. Watson is survived by his wife Eileen, and three children, John, Phil and Georgina.

THE WEEKLY WORLD NEWS, ONE OF THOSE Supermarket tabloid papers that give us such stories as aliens who have made three headed siamese twins pregnant, will be carrying a weekly column on wrestling. Bernie Basher, who name, I'm sure, is as real as Brutus Beefcakes, is the columnist and it attempts to give inside information without going too far. Still, it's in the style of the rest of the paper (which is not the column's fault, but the editor's) so when reading, understand that going in.

GOOD FRIEND AND FELLOW SHEET-EDITOR DAVE MELTZER has landed a weekly column with the new National Sports Daily, an all sports newspaper available currently in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles. Dave appears on Mondays and will cover wrestling from a no nonsense viewpoint without really exposing the business. It's worth checking out.

SPEAKING OF COLUMNS AND/OR ARTICLES, we are looking for both. If you would like to submit an article for publication, just send it along and we'll try to use it. Last issue's feature by Don Smith was sent in well over a year ago and we've had it on file (I know, I know, it's a miracle it didn't get lost before then). We are looking for someone to do a regular column (once a month) on any subject they like. I received a good one called "from the Stands" but the writer forgot to include their name. It dealt with what the writer hears from casual fans while attending wrestling matches. It was humorous and whoever wrote it, I'd like to see more.

I'LL BE OFF WORK WITH MY ARM INJURY through at least the 25th now, but I'm still hard to catch during the evening. Sitting around the house is driving me nuts, even though I know I've got a ton of typing to do on the bulletin and the yearbook. We've been going to every high school basketball game we can (Knoxville is now 22-1 for those keeping track) but I'm usually home by 10:00 pm.

THAT'S IT FOR ANOTHER ISSUE. THIS is a short month so look for us back on March 1st with the regular February "30th" edition. Get your yearbook orders in quickly, they're going fast. See ya in a couple weeks.

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